THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All vitamin bulk drugs included in the Second Schedule to the DPCO, 1987 are exempt from price control as bulk drugs.

Price increase of Fluothene

2691. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 635 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th February, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the basis on which the price of Fluothene has been increased by 128 per cent, Clothalton Tabs. by 140 per cent, Neosporin Powder by 108 per cent and Neosporin Eye drops by 102 per cent;

(b) whether the producers of these products have submitted the information as required under para 11 of DPCO, 1987 to Government before revising the price; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) As per the provisions of DPCO, 1987, the manufacturers of non-scheduled formulations are free to fix the prices, however, Government is keeping a watch and taking suitable action, wherever necessary. On Government intervention the manufacturer of Neosporin Powder 10 gm. has reduced the price from Rs. 10.09 to Rs. 9 51.

(b) and (c) Manufacturers of these products have submitted the information as per provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987.

CBI probe into Bhopal Gas Tragedy

2692. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2564 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th August, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the investigation by the CBI on Bhopal Gas Disaster has since been completed;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what is the latest position of the case?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation which has been investigating into the criminal case relating to the Bhopal Gas Tragedy has filed a Charge Sheet in the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal and prosecuted S/Shri Warren Anderson, former Chairman, Union Carbide Corporation, USA; Keshub Mahindra, former Chairman, Union Carbide India Ltd.; Vijay Gokhle, former Managing Director and presently Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Union Carbide India Ltd. and six other employees of Union Carbide India Ltd.; Bhopal. They have been charged for the offences of culpable homicide, causing hurt to human beings and killing animals. The case is now posted for 16.5.1988.

Overcharging the prices of Ibuprofen, etc.

2693. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the formulators are overcharging the prices of combinations of Ibuprofen with Paracetamol, Analgin with Oxyphenbutazone, Rifampicin Combinations, Dextropropoxyphene combinations, Ampicillin Sodium injection and many other medicines;

(b) what is the price fixed for each by Government and what price is being charged for each of those medicines;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are effectively monitoring the prices of medicines;

(d) if so, the names of other products along with the names of drug companies where overcharging of prices has come to the notice of Government;

(e) what action has been taken in each case; and

(f) whether Government are taking any effective steps to curb this menace of overcharging and looting of the poor people?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No specific instance of overcharging the prices fixed by the Government for any of the formulations referred to in the question has come to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) As the number of formulations referred to in the question is very large being marketed by several companies, the details required in the question are quite voluminous and are not readily available. Time and efforts required for collection of the same are not likely to be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The number of formulations, prices of which are controlled under the DPCO, 1987 as well as the number of drug companies marketing them is quite large. As and when any instance of overcharging the prices fixed by the Government by any drug company comes to the notice of the Government, suitable action is taken as per provisions of DPCO, 1987. Past cases are not monitored.

Price control on Oxyfederine HCL

2694. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2373 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 1987 and state:

(a) when was the representation for inclusion of Oxyfederine HCL under price control received by his Ministry as well as by the Kelkar Committee;

(b) what were the grounds on which the representation for inclusion was made;

(c) whether the Kelkar Committee has since considered the representation; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The representation for inclusion of Oxyfederine HCL for price control was received on 1st February, 1988.

(b) to (d) The representation has been referred to the Kelkar Committee for its consideration.

Price control on drugs required for control of blindness

2695. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1239 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Health recommended for price control of drugs required for control of blindness; and

(b) if so, what are the names of those drugs required for control of blindness recommended by the Ministry of Health for price control?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The names of bulk drugs (including salts, esters and derivatives if any) required for National Trachoma Control Programme and National Programme for Control of blindness, used in Category I formulations appearing in the Third Schedule of the DPCO, 1987 as recommended by the Ministry of Health